

	SECTION:	OPERATIONS	OPR-224
	CHAPTER:	FIELD PROCEDURES	
	DIRECTIVE:	INTERVIEW AND INTERROGATIONS	

224.01 SUMMARY

This directive outlines the procedures governing interviews and interrogations. Whether talking with an individual who is a witness or a suspect in a case under investigation, employees will always conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner. Interviews and interrogations will be conducted within the framework of state and federal guidelines and show regard for basic human decency and dignity.

224.02 PROCEDURES

BASIC GUIDELINES – Successful interviews and interrogations are critical to the successful resolution of most cases. Basic procedures should be followed when conducting an interview with victims and witnesses, or when conducting an interrogation of a criminal suspect. The basic procedures include:

- When practical, witnesses, victims and suspects should be interviewed separately. Separation ensures that the recollection of one is not tainted by the recollection of another.
- Officers will not use coercion, threats or any physical force to obtain a statement.
- Prior to any questions, suspects will be advised of their Constitutional Rights per the Miranda Decision when they are in custody.
- Investigators trained in forensic interview techniques relating to child sexual assault and abuse cases should interview child sexual assault victims whenever possible.
- The number of interviews with a victim(s) should be within reason considering the mental, physical, ability to comprehend, and sobriety level of the interviewee. The number of Officers should be kept to a minimum.
- Depending upon the circumstances, the interview may be recorded, video taped, or may involve a written statement from the person interviewed. Whenever a recording device is used, the information obtained shall be summarized in the Officer's written report. The tape, whether audio or video, will be placed into the Property Section as evidence.

PROCEDURES (con't)

- The interviewing Officer must be alert for prejudices or biases affecting the interview. The motivation of the person being interviewed and any relationship to the other involved parties must be considered.
- Whenever possible, statements obtained should be corroborated by other independent statements or by the presence of physical evidence.
- If the interview is extensive in length, the interviewing Officer must provide breaks in the interrogation to allow the suspect to attend to physical necessities or if the suspect requests a break.

